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**Claims:**

We claim:

1. A melodic interchange process, which we have named the Universal Song Performance Method (hereafter also referred to as USPM) that is grounded in our discovery of common-mode scensions--essentially common rhythmic links existing between otherwise dissimilar musical works. USPM uses new, original written text (printed or otherwise visually displayed) containing a plurality of structured rhythmic prosody employing common-mode scansion that is divisible within a standard musical form, thus allowing persons having no previous musical training or musical sightreading skill to perform newly-authored lyrical creations.
  
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein: the Universal Song Performance Method is designed with written/displayed text(s) containing rhythmic prosody structured on common-mode scansion, thus enabling said new lyrics to be superimposed over melodic material that is familiar to the

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user. These can exist as a single (or a plurality of) short or long lyrical piece(s), combined with a textual song list and/or sound playback system containing instrumental compositions that follow the same common-mode scansion as the lyrics.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein: this system capitalizes on the user's knowledge of well-known melodies--ranging from simple nursery rhymes (that anyone would know) to elaborate classical works that are previously known to the user. By authoring new lyrics to the USPM model, the resulting lyrics can be performed with thousands of existing tunes.

4. The method according to claim 2, includes formats such as: textual material(s) in book or electronic form, whether as traditional paper-bound books, cards, leaflets and/or song-sheets, or as electronic media--i.e., CDs, CD-ROMs, DVD-A, DVD-V, SACD, DVD-ROMs, Internet files, videotapes, diskettes, encoded ROM/RAM chips for solid-state

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storage/playback devices, mixed media disks--such as interactive computer files combined with instrumental musical compositions in audio and/or MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) formats, Karaoke-style disks/files and the like.

5. USPM applications include use as an entertainment form-- such as electronic toys/games, musical performance books/devices and Karaoke systems.

6. USPM applications further include: musical educational devices and teaching methods in both audio/visual as well as traditional book formats (which, if desired, can be combined with prerecorded instrumental melodic files) for encouraging musical activities among students.

7. The method in claim 6, further including: students, both in at-grade levels, as well as those who are developmentally disabled or difficult to reach using traditional musical training methods. By exposing students

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to new lyrical material combined with familiar melodies that are known to the listener, the student's acceptance to new musical forms is enhanced significantly.

8. USPM applications include not only entertainment and music-education systems, but also can be employed in the instruction of NON-musical subjects, such as use in mnemonics systems. In such cases, the memory of lists, facts, names or other difficult-to-recall material can be enhanced using non-lyrical phrases put into a common-mode scansion style and combined with familiar existing melodies.

9. USPM is not limited by other methods' barriers of language fluency (and/or proficiency) or cultural background. Its unique methodology is equally applicable to persons speaking English, Spanish, French, German or any other language, as long as the lyrical constructs adhere to our common-mode scansion model. Additionally, USPM works equally well in a variety of musical genres and styles, as

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diverse as folk, classical, opera, hymns, nursery songs,  
and more contemporary forms, such as country, rock and rap.